<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please cancel Claims 21 to 29, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15 and 19. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data management system which has a plurality of servers connected through a network and transfers data managed by each server in accordance with a request from a terminal ~~connected to the server~~, wherein each server comprises

recording means for recording the number of times of transfer of <u>target</u> data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~another~~ <u>a second</u> server, in association with the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server and the <u>target</u> data, and

copy means for copying the <u>target</u> data to the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server ~~for which~~ <u>on condition that</u> the number of times <u>of transfer of the target data requested through the second server</u> exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system according to claim 1, wherein each server further comprises

means for recording an index of the <u>target</u> data managed by the server, and

means for updating the index when the <u>target</u> data is copied.

- 2 -

Claim 3 (original): The system according to claim 1, wherein

the servers are hierarchically constructed on the network, and

said recording means of each server records the number of times related

to a server on a lower side of the server.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The system according to claim 1, wherein each

server further comprises means for deleting the target data in the server after the target data is

copied by said copy means.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The system according to claim 1, wherein the

target data is document data.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The system according to claim 1, wherein the

server is a server group formed from a data server which stores the target data, and an index

server which stores an index of the target data.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A server which is connected to ~~another~~ other

server through a network and transfers data managed by the server in accordance with a request

from a terminal ~~connected to the other server~~, comprising:

recording means for recording the number of times of transfer of target

data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~the other~~ a second

server, in association with the ~~other~~ second server and the target data; and

copy means for copying the data to the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server ~~for which~~ <u>on condition that</u> the number of times <u>of transfer of the target data requested through the second server</u> exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A data management method of, for a plurality of servers connected through a network, transferring data managed by each server in accordance with a request from a terminal ~~connected to the server~~, comprising:

[[the]] <u>a</u> recording step of, in each server, recording the number of times of transfer of <u>target</u> data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~another~~ <u>a second</u> server, in association with the other server and the data; and

[[the]] <u>a</u> copy step of copying the data to the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server ~~for which~~ <u>on condition that</u> the number of times <u>of transfer of the target data requested through the second server</u> exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, further comprising, in each server,

the step of recording an index of the <u>target</u> data managed by the server, and

the step of updating the index when the <u>target</u> data is copied.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 8, wherein

the servers are hierarchically constructed on the network, and

in the recording step in each server, the number of times related to a server on a lower side of the server is recorded.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, further comprising, in each server, the step of deleting the target data in the server after the target data is copied in the copy step.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the target data is document data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the server is a server group formed from a data server which stores the target data, and an index server which stores an index of the target data.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A program for causing a computer, which is connected to ~~another~~ a second server through a network and transfers data managed by the computer in accordance with a request from a terminal ~~connected to the other server~~, to function as:

recording means for recording the number of times of transfer of target data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through the ~~other~~ second server, in association with the other server and the target data; and

copy means for copying the data to the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server ~~for which~~ <u>on condition that</u> the number of times <u>of transfer of the target data requested through the second server</u> exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A data management system which has a plurality of servers connected through a network and transfers data managed by each server in accordance with a request from a terminal connected to the server, wherein

the data is managed in an object format,

the object contains the data, a management method, and management data,

each server comprises means for executing processing defined in the management method, and

the management method defines

processing of recording the number of times of transfer of data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~another~~ <u>a second</u> server, as the management data in association with the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server and the data, and

processing of copying the object of the data to the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> server for which the number of times exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 16 (original): The system according to claim 15, wherein the management method defines

processing of, when the data managed by the server is updated, specifying the server at a copy destination of the object of the data, and

processing of instructing the specified server at the copy destination to update the data.

Claim 17 (original): The system according to claim 15, wherein the management method defines

processing of specifying the server at a copy source of the object managed by the server,

processing of acquiring the object from the specified server at the copy source,

processing of determining whether the data of the acquired object is updated, and

processing of, upon determining that the data is updated, updating the data of the object managed by the server on the basis of the data of the object acquired from the server at the copy source.

Claim 18 (original): The system according to claim 15, wherein

the servers have a hierarchical relationship, and

the method defines

processing of specifying the object of the data for which the number of times is smaller than the predetermined number, and

processing of moving the specified object to an upper server.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A server which is connected to another server through a network and transfers data managed by the server in accordance with a request from a terminal connected to the other server, wherein

the data is managed in an object format,

the object contains the data, a management method, and management data,

the server comprises means for executing processing defined in the management method, and

the management method defines

processing of recording the number of times of transfer of data managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~another~~ a second server, as the management data in association with the ~~other~~ second server and the data, and

processing of copying the object of the data to the ~~other~~ second server for which the number of times exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 20 (original): A data management method of, for a plurality of servers connected through a network, transferring data managed by each server in accordance with a request from a terminal connected to the server, wherein:

the data is managed in an object format,

the object contains the data, a management method, and management data,

the data management method comprises the step of executing processing defined in the management method, and

the management method defines

processing of recording the number of times of transfer of data

managed by the server, which is requested from the terminal through ~~another~~ a second server, as

the management data in association with the ~~other~~ second server and the data, and

processing of copying the object of the data to the ~~other~~ second server

for which the number of times exceeds a predetermined number.

Claims 21 - 29 (canceled).